

What is claimed is:

1. A well drilling and servicing fluid comprising an aqueous liquid, a water soluble polymer viscosifier, a polymeric fluid loss control additive, and a particulate magnesia bridging agent wherein the magnesia has an Activity Index  
5 greater than about 800 seconds.

2. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymer is a biopolymer produced by fermentation of a carbohydrate source by the action of bacteria or fungi which is an excellular polysaccharide having a molecular weight in excess of about 500,000.

3. The fluid of claim 2 wherein the polymer is xanthan gum.

10 4. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is selected from the group consisting of pregelatinized starch, starch derivatives, cellulose derivatives, and mixtures thereof.

5. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is a starch derivative selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl starch,  
15 hydroxypropyl starch, hydroxyalkyl carboxymethyl starch, carboxymethyl starch, tertiary aminoalkyl ether derivatives of starch, and the slightly crosslinked derivatives of such derivatized starches, and mixtures thereof.

6. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is a hydroxypropyl ether derivative of starch which has been slightly crosslinked with  
20 epichlorohydrin.

7. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked ether derivative of (1) a partially hydrolyzed starch, (2) a partially depolymerized, crosslinked ether derivative of starch, and (3) mixtures thereof.

8. The fluid of claim 3 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is a hydroxypropyl ether derivative of starch which has been slightly crosslinked with epichlorohydrin.

9. The fluid of claim 3 wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is  
5 selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked ether derivative of (1) a partially hydrolyzed starch, (2) a partially depolymerized, crosslinked ether derivative of starch, and (3) mixtures thereof.

10. The fluid of claim 1 wherein the Activity Index is from about 800 seconds to about 3000 seconds.

10 11. The fluid of claim 10 wherein the polymer viscosifier is xanthan gum and wherein the polymeric fluid loss control additive is selected from the group consisting of a crosslinked ether derivative of (1) a partially hydrolyzed starch, (2) a partially depolymerized, crosslinked ether derivative of starch, and (3) mixtures thereof.

15 12. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 1 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

13. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 2 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

14. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 3 is circulated  
20 within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

15. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 4 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

16. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 5 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

17. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 6 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

18. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 7 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

5 19. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 8 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

20. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 9 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

21. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 10 is circulated  
10 within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

22. The process of drilling a well wherein the fluid of claim 11 is circulated within a borehole being drilled as drilling proceeds.

23. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 1.

15 24. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 2.

25. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 3.

26. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a  
20 subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 4.

27. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 5.

28. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 6.

29. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 7.

30. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 8.

5      31. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of claim 9.

32. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of Claim 10.

33. The process of completing or working over a well wherein a  
10 subterranean formation is contacted with the fluid of Claim 11.